

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
SOUTHERN DIVISION

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL
COMMITTEE et al

PLAINTIFFS

VERSUS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:24-CV-25-LG-RPM

JUSTIN WETZEL et al

DEFENDANTS

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

This matter is before the Court on the motions for pro hac vice admission filed by Plaintiffs Republican National Committee, Mississippi Republican Party, James Perry, and Matthew Lamb on behalf of attorneys Thomas R. McCarthy and Conor D. Woodfin. Rule 83.1(d)(7)(E) of the Local Rules provides that a PHV application “ordinarily should be granted unless the court finds reasons to believe that: ... the applicant had, before application, filed or appeared in the federal court without having secured approval under these rules.” The names of the applicants for admission appear on Plaintiffs’ complaint, albeit with the notation “pending admission *pro hac vice*.” The applicants’ names have appeared on other pleadings as well with the same notation: motion [37] for scheduling order; response [40] to intervention motion; cross motion [58] for summary judgment and memorandum [60] in support; and response [75] in opposition to motion for summary judgment. The subject pleadings were signed and filed by a Mississippi-licensed attorney admitted to practice before this Court.

By including their names on the pleadings in question, the applicants appear to have violated the Court’s Local Rules regarding PHV admissions. *See Clayton v. City of Oxford, Miss.*, No. 3:21-cv-174-GHD-JMV, 2021 WL 4699182 (N.D.Miss. Oct. 7, 2021); *Reech v. Sullivan*, No. 3:18-cv-35-HSO-LRA, 2018 WL1698303 (S.D. Miss. Apr. 5, 2018); *Isom v. Valley Forge Ins. Co.*, No. 2:16-cv-109-KS-MTP, 2016 WL 4183315 (S.D.Miss. Aug. 5, 2016).

In other words, by including their names, the attorneys “appeared in federal court” prior to securing PHV admission in violation of L.U.Civ.R. 83.1(d)(7)(E). *See In re Williamson*, 838 So.2d 226, 235 (Miss. 2002) (“In the future, attorneys are hereby noticed and cautioned that a foreign attorney will be deemed to have made an appearance in a Mississippi lawsuit if the foreign attorney signs the pleadings or allows his or her name to be listed on the pleadings.”).

Based on the foregoing, local counsel for Plaintiffs is directed to show cause: (1) why he should not be sanctioned for allowing a non-Mississippi attorneys to include their names on pleadings prior to obtaining PHV admission; and (2) why applicants’ PHV motions should not be denied for failing to comply with Mississippi law regarding unauthorized practice of law and for violating L.U.Civ.R. 83.1(d)(7)(E). A response to this show cause order is due on or before **May 23, 2024**.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, this the 9th day of May 2024.

/s/ Robert P. Myers, Jr.

ROBERT P. MYERS, JR.

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE